

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claims 1, 3, 22, 23, 27, and 29 and the addition of new claims 30 to 32, claims 4 to 9, 12, 14 to 21, and 24 to 26, 28, and 30 to 32 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter included in claims 8, 9, and 21. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claims 8 and 21 have been rewritten herein in independent form and are therefore believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

Since claim 9 depends from claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is also in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim 5 has been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 8 and is therefore also believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

III. Allowed Claim 28

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claim 28 is allowed.

The Examiner will note that claims 4, 6, 7, 12, 14 to 20, 24 to 26, and 30 to 32 now ultimately depend from claim 28 and are therefore also believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

IV. Claim Objections

Regarding the objections to claims 1, 3, 23, 27 and 29, the Examiner will note that claims 1, 3, 23, 27 and 29 have been canceled herein without prejudice, thereby rendering moot the objection to claims 1, 3, 23, 27 and 29.

Regarding the objection to claims 12 and 24, the Examiner will note that claim 12 has been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 28, thereby rendering moot the objection to claims 12 and 24.

Regarding the objection to claims 14, 15, and 25, the Examiner will note that claim 14 has been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 28, thereby rendering moot the objection to claims 14, 15, and 25.

In view of all of the foregoing, withdrawal of all of the claim rejections is respectfully requested.

V. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Regarding the rejections of claim 1, 3 to 7, 12, 14 to 20, 22 to 27, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), while these rejections are not necessarily agreed with, to facilitate matters claims 1, 3, 22, 23, 27, and 29 have been canceled herein without prejudice, claims 4, 6, 7, 12, 14 to 20, and 24 to 26 now ultimately depend from claim 28, which was indicated to be allowed, and claim 5 has been amended herein without prejudice to depend from claim 8, which was indicated to include allowable subject matter. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are moot, and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

VI. New Claims 30 to 32

New claims 30 to 32 have been added herein. It is respectfully submitted that claims 30 to 32 add no new matter and are fully supported by the present application, including the Specification. Since claims 30 to 32 ultimately depend from claim 28, which was indicated to be allowed, it is respectfully submitted that claims 30 to 32 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Since a corresponding number of finally rejected claims has been canceled herein, entry of new claims 30 to 32 should not be refused on the grounds that additional claims are presented.

VII. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 26, 2008

By: /Clifford A. Ulrich/
Clifford A. Ulrich
Reg. No. 42,194

KENYON & KENYON LLP
One Broadway
New York, New York 10004
(212) 425-7200
CUSTOMER NO. 26646